

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting & Mailing: Pat Keith

Volume LXVIII, Number 7 • August, 2018 • P.O. Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026

cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Chi Gung Classes

Hilltowns resident Michael Alterman is beginning his eighth year teaching a weekly class in Taoist Water Method Chi Gung at the Village Church in Cummington. The class is open to new students twice a year, in the fall and the spring.

The Taoist Water Method is an ancient system for developing internal awareness, which includes chi gung, tai chi, and meditation. Opening the Energy Gates, the chi gung set Michael is teaching, helps people to maintain healthy posture with greater ease, and to release old patterns that cause pain and illness. Consistent daily practice of this form can renew all the major systems of the body, while calming and stabilizing the mind.

Class meets on Tuesday nights, and the fall session begins on September 4th. New students will learn the basics of the form from 6:00 to 6:30, and then join the rest of the class from 6:30 to 7:30. This fall, we will be learning to release tension from the back and spine, and to breathe in an easy, natural way.

The fee for a seven-week session is charged on an affordable \$20-\$65-\$110 sliding scale, with no one turned away for lack of funds. No pre-registration is required, but it's helpful if people let Michael know in advance that they are planning to attend.

For more information, please contact Michael at 413-358-6919 or alterman@speakeasy.net, or visit his website: getyouren-ergyflowing.com.

Service on the Hill

The annual "Service on the Hill" with the West Cummington Congregational Church and the Village Church will take place on August 19. The two churches meet at the site of the original church from which they sprung, 150 years ago.

Council on Aging

Information on classes, the lunch bunch, and coupons to help with your food bill if you qualify.

Monday: Healthy Bones and Balance Class 9:30

COA Coffee Hour 10:30

Wednesday: COA office hours 10:00 AM -5:00 PM

Thursday: Healthy Bones and Balance Class 9:30

Ladies Lunch Bunch—Wednesday, August 8th at the Worthington Country Club. We'll leave from the church parking lot at 11:30.

The COA has received "Farmers' Market Coupons". If you are over 60 call Anne Parsons at 634-2262 by August 8th to find out if you qualify.

A Fiery & Still Voice: Performance Tour

The Bryant Homestead comes to life in this site-based history play by Enchanted Circle Theater. Set in 1866, one year after Bryant purchased and returned to his childhood home, A Fiery & Still Voice offers an intimate portrait of the man behind the poet and delves deeper into the multi-dimensional personality of this extraordinary man. This is a play about love, passion, and social justice.

The William Cullen Bryant Homestead

Saturdays, August 25, September 8 & 15, October 13 & 27;

Sunday, August 26

11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Member \$22; Nonmember \$28

For reservations, call 413.200.7262

or email Andrea at acaluori@the trustees.org.

History Comes Alive!

Meet the Caretaker: An Interactive Living History Tour
at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead

Journey back in time to 1867 with this fun interactive tour. You will be greeted as new servants arriving to the Homestead from New York City by the caretaker's wife, Melissa Dawes. She'll show you your quarters and explain to you what life at the Homestead is like, including your daily tasks and schedule. After touring the house, you'll enjoy a light tea in the parlor.

Saturday, August 4 & 11, Sept. 1, Sunday, August 19

11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Members \$12; Nonmember \$20

Email Andrea at acaluori@the trustees.org to sign up for the tour

50th Anniversary

This summer is the 50th year of the Kingman Tavern Museum. Come visit from 2-5 on Saturdays until August 25th. Refreshments are served on the lawn & picnicking is welcome. Admission is free, donations are accepted. Help us celebrate!

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

A Little More Bill Volk

We had a nice call last week from Cindy Volk, now ensconced down in central Pennsylvania, and who we dearly miss at the BFL. She misses Cummington as well, but feels she's where she needs to be at this point. Old friend George Racz had sent her the recent GWM article by yours truly entitled "The Story of the Volk", and she wanted to let us know how much she'd enjoyed it.

"Do you remember that whole thing?" I asked her.

"Oh, definitely, but my daughter was a little surprised by it as she didn't recall it at all."

We reminisced about Bill, how he'd served on the selectboard, as town moderator, and how he was the main force behind the addition to the Community House.

"You know, writing that article triggered a lot of memories for me about Bill at the library" I told her, "so I want to share my favorite one with you."

"Great. I'd love to hear it."

"Okay. One Saturday morning Bill and I were talking by ourselves, and at a certain point he said to me in no uncertain terms 'You know, there's a reason things go so well in our household, and it's because I make the BIG decisions, and my wife makes the little decisions. I know it sounds chauvinistic, but that's just the way it is: I make the BIG decisions, and my wife makes the little ones. For example, when it comes to the Volk family position regarding US relations with communist China, clearly a very BIG issue, that's my call, and my call only. On the other hand, when it comes to the little decisions, such as where we're going to live, what color our house is, where I'm allowed to work, or the kind of car we're going to buy, those are all my wife's call. She knows better than to question me about the BIG decisions, and I wouldn't think of questioning her about the little ones.'"

There was a moment of silence on the other end of the line, and then Cindy replied "Well it's true, isn't it?"

—Mark

Greenwood Summer Camp

The Greenwood Senior Summer camp is in session and giving their wonderful concerts on Saturday nights, as well as appearing at the Village Church on Sunday mornings.



Aging Gracefully in the Hilltowns!

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to all residents of the Hilltowns.

The group—always open to new members—meets at the Cummington Community House library, Main Street on the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3 PM.

For further information please contact:

Wynne or Lucy 634 5576 wynlucy@gmail.com or Annie annieb@crocker.com

Comment:

Why did I change my tune from "Okay, I should try this group once anyway" to joyfully looking forward to the next session, and the next?

What touches me most: the quiet, spacious, caring listening—mostly strangers sharing this awe-inspiring stage of our lives. I might have the exact same experience being shared, yet hearing how another takes a totally different approach is enlightening and often up-lifting.

Practical resources: Time to share what we have gleaned/researched regarding community resources to keep our lives vital.

—Susan Brown (participant)

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the September issue is August 25, 2018. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblouz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entry-way of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Visit our website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

IS YOUR SEPTIC OVERFLOWING? IS YOUR ROOF LEAKING? ARE YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS OLD AND DRAFTY?
IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE THESE REPAIRS, CALL ME ABOUT GETTING A NO-PAYMENT, NO INTEREST HOUSING REHAB LOAN!!

If you live in the Towns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield, Peru, or Worthington, we have funding available!

Eligible Improvements May Include:

- Roofs, Windows, Doors, and Foundation Repairs
- Septic Systems, Sewer Tie in's
- Heating Systems, Oil Tank Installations/Removals
- Handicap accessibility work
- Plumbing and Electrical Updates
- New Wells Drilled, Water Filtration, Pump Replacement

Program Benefits Include:

- No Monthly Payments and No Interest
- Loans may be entirely forgiven
- Detailed Work Specifications
- Project oversight by 20+ year construction expert
- Pre-approved contractors

Eligible Homeowners Should:

- Live in a single-family, owner-occupied housing unit
- Be current with property taxes and mortgage payments
- Fall within the income guidelines

HOUSEHOLD INCOME
GUIDELINES/LIMITS:

Household Size	Maximum Gross Annual Income
1	\$45,200
2	\$51,650
3	\$58,100
4	\$64,550
5	\$69,750
6	\$74,900
7	\$80,050
8	\$85,250

Call Paula Bilodeau, Program Manager, at (413) 296-4536, ext. 123 for an application or for more information.

Funding is provided by the US Dept. of HUD/DHCD and MA CDBG Programs.



Half an Hour from Everywhere

Discover the expansive Gardens of Plainfield Take a scenic tour of ancient maple lined roads through a landscape dotted with eighteenth-century houses and barns outlined in stone walls.

Saturday, August 4, 10 AM–3 PM, Rain or shine

Visit seven magical gardens featuring sculpture, stonework, special vistas, majestic trees, venerable orchards and lush plantings.

\$15 per person. Tickets sold at Town hall, 304 main Street (Rte 116) Plainfield, as of 9:45 AM

Information: info@plainfieldmahistoricalsociety.org

website: www.plainfieldmahistoricalsociety.org or call 413-634-5455

The tour was organized by the Plainfield Ladies' Benevolent Society and the Plainfield Historical Society to benefit restoration work in the Historic Shaw Hudson House.



Goodwill Messenger
P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

If you would like an electronic copy instead of a paper one, include your email on the form below and we will email the Goodwill Messenger to you.

Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to all Cummington residents

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

Yes! I would like to subscribe to the Goodwill Messenger.

Name _____ email: _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$10.00 for a one year subscription.

Please make checks payable to: Goodwill Messenger and mail your payment with this form to:
Village Congregational Church, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026